

September 2007

1. The 2007 County of Riverside Homeless Count.

2. The 2007 County of Riverside Homeless Count.

3. Recommendations for Next Steps.

1. The 2007 County of Riverside Homeless Count.

How many Homeless People are there in the County of Riverside who live on the streets or in shelters or transitional housing programs on any given day? The answer is 4,508 adults and children according to the 2007 County of Riverside Homeless Count.

Background Information

Under the auspices of the County Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) Homeless Program Unit, the 2007 County of Riverside Homeless Count was a collaboration with the Housing and Homeless Coalition of Riverside County and a couple of hundred community volunteers to conduct a street-based and service-based enumeration of all homeless individuals in every city, community and unincorporated area of Riverside County on the designated day-of-the-count which was January 24th, 2007.

The street-based enumeration included homeless encampments and places that homeless people use as part of their daily activities. Homeless encampments are those places that homeless people use primarily for sleeping. Other places (non-encampments) include streets and highways, places where homeless people are usually on route, and locations that homeless people gather or hang out such as vacant lots, parks, municipal services centers, parks, centers, abandoned buildings, and other locations that are not homeless encampments.

The service-based enumeration included both residential and non-residential locations where homeless persons receive temporary housing and essential services. Such places include emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, substance abuse treatment facilities, mental health service facilities, public social service agencies, public schools, and clothing programs, etc.

RIVERSIDE

2007 COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE HOMELESS SURVEY

32b) If you, which reason:

- ☐ (ATDC/TMP)
- ☐ (Social Security - Retirement (age 62+))
- ☐ (Social Security - Disability)
- ☐ (GDI)
- ☐ (Unemployment)

32c) What is Your Total Current Monthly Income?

D. FAMILY HISTORY

34) What is your marital status?

☐ Single

2007 COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE HOMELESS SURVEY

35) Have you ever been a victim of sexual abuse while living on the street?

☐ Yes ☐ No

IF YES to #35, please answer the following:

35a) Was the incident:

Payroll ☐ No
Sexual ☐ Yes

36) What is your current location of your housing?

☐ Yes ☐ No

37) Have you ever been a victim of sexual abuse while living on the street?

☐ Yes ☐ No

38) Have you ever been a victim of sexual abuse while living on the street?

☐ Yes ☐ No

39) Have you ever been a victim of sexual abuse while living on the street?

☐ Yes ☐ No

40) Have you ever been a victim of sexual abuse while living on the street?

☐ Yes ☐ No

41) Have you ever been a victim of sexual abuse while living on the street?

☐ Yes ☐ No

42) Have you ever been a victim of sexual abuse while living on the street?

☐ Yes ☐ No

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44) Have you ever been a victim of sexual abuse while living on the street?

☐ Yes ☐ No

45) Have you ever been a victim of sexual abuse while living on the street?

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46) Have you ever been a victim of sexual abuse while living on the street?

☐ Yes ☐ No

47) Have you ever been a victim of sexual abuse while living on the street?

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48) Have you ever been a victim of sexual abuse while living on the street?

☐ Yes ☐ No

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☐ Yes ☐ No

50) Have you ever been a victim of sexual abuse while living on the street?

☐ Yes ☐ No

51) Have you ever been a victim of sexual abuse while living on the street?

☐ Yes ☐ No

52) Have you ever been a victim of sexual abuse while living on the street?

☐ Yes ☐ No

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62) Have you ever been a victim of sexual abuse while living on the street?

☐ Yes ☐ No

63) Have you ever been a victim of sexual abuse while living on the street?

☐ Yes ☐ No

64) Have you ever been a victim of sexual abuse while living on the street?

☐ Yes ☐ No

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☐ Yes ☐ No

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☐ Yes ☐ No

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70) Have you ever been a victim of sexual abuse while living on the street?

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71) Have you ever been a victim of sexual abuse while living on the street?

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72) Have you ever been a victim of sexual abuse while living on the street?

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81) Have you ever been a victim of sexual abuse while living on the street?

☐ Yes ☐ No

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☐ Yes ☐ No

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☐ Yes ☐ No

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☐ Yes ☐ No

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☐ Yes ☐ No

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☐ Yes ☐ No

110) Have you ever been a victim of sexual abuse while living on the street?

☐ Yes ☐ No

111) Have you ever been a victim of sexual abuse while living on the street?

☐ Yes ☐ No

112) Have you ever been a victim of sexual abuse while living on the street?

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Acknowledgements

The County Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) Homeless Programs Unit (<http://dpss.co.riverside.ca.us/dpss>) was the lead entity responsible for implementing the 2007 Homeless Survey. DPSS partnered with the Housing and Homeless Coalition for Riverside County which has over 100 active public and private agency participants (www.n2ncoalition.org) and consulted with the Institute for Urban Research and Development (IURD), a community-based research and development agency of the non-profit Institute for Urban Initiatives (www.urban-initiatives.org), to complete the survey.

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Selected Facts About Homelessness in Riverside County

(source: 2007 homeless count)

There are **4,508** homeless adults¹ and children on a given day.

■ Location:

- 2,775 (or 61.6%) of adults and children were counted on the streets and 1,733 (or 38.4%) were counted in facilities for a total of 4,508 persons.

■ Age²:

- 149 (or 4.0%) of the 3,714 adults counted were seniors age 62 or older;
- 264 (or 7.1%) of the 3,714 adults counted were youth between the ages of 18 – 24;
- 15 (or 0.4%) were unaccompanied (without parents) children between the ages of 13 – 17.

■ Gender:

- 2,525 (or 67.9%) were men and 1,189 (or 32.1%) were women.

■ Ethnicity:

- 1,689 (or 45.5%) were White; 1,258 (or 33.9%) were Hispanic or Latino; 565 (or 15.3%) were African American or Black; 82 (or 2.2%) stated other; 81 (or 2.2%) stated American Indian or Alaskan Native; and 39 (or 1.1%) stated Asian or Pacific Islander.

■ Children:

- 794 or 17.7% were children under the age of 18 living with a homeless parent(s) who was included in the count.

■ Families:

- 1,165 or 25.8% were persons in families with children including 371 adults with 794 children.

¹A person was considered homeless, and thus counted, only when he/she fell within the following HUD-based definition by residing in one of the following places: a) in places not meant for human habitation, such as cars, parks, sidewalks, and abandoned buildings; b) in an emergency shelter; and c) in transitional housing for homeless persons.

²Categories are not mutually exclusive.

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Executive Summary

The 2007 County of Riverside Homeless Survey



The 2007 County of Riverside Homeless Survey was based upon a survey that was administered to 630 homeless adults. The number of adults who were surveyed is equivalent to nearly one of every five adults (17%) who were included in the homeless count.

The survey was conducted over a 10 week period from March through mid-May of 2007. It was conducted on the streets and at various residential and non-residential social service sites that participated in the homeless count.

How the Survey Was Conducted?

Representatives from more than 30 public and private agencies, service-providers and faith-based institutions participated in conducting survey interviews throughout the county. The process involved administering a comprehensive one-on-one interview survey with a representative sampling of homeless adults in Riverside County. There were three (3) primary methods of contact with homeless persons who participated in the survey. They were: 1) interviews with homeless persons who were contacted on the streets; 2) interviews with homeless persons who were contacted while living in shelters and transitional housing; and 3) interviews with homeless persons who were contacted while using non-residential homeless services.

All surveyors who participated in administering the 110 question survey were oriented and trained by staff of the Institute for Urban Initiatives with assistance from the Department of Public Social Services Homeless Programs Unit staff. Using trained interviewers to administer the survey, as opposed to conducting a self-administered survey instrument, increased the opportunity for collecting complete and accurate answers to the questions as well as provided opportunity for receiving useful evaluation information from the interviewers.

What Was Included in the Survey?

The survey instrument was designed to collect a wide-range of information on homeless individuals as well as assess their service needs using questions focusing on a wide range of areas including: Domestic Violence, Education, Ethnicity, Familial Status, Geo-History, Health Care, Income, Mental Health History, Residency, Substance Abuse History, and Veteran's Status.

The survey instrument was also designed to compile a cross-section of information concerning several pre-determined sub-populations that included: chronically homeless persons, families with children, men, people living in homeless facilities, people living on the streets, persons with dual diagnoses, persons with HIV/AIDS, persons with mental illness, pregnant women, seniors, substance abusers, various ethnic groups, veterans, victims of domestic violence, unaccompanied youth, and women. As a result, the survey provides a sampling of data that helps us examine the issues and needs of each homeless sub-population as well as the entire homeless population.

Survey Results

A general profile of homelessness in the County of Riverside, which was compiled from responses from the 17 categories of questions that were contained in the survey can be found on pages 21 - 35. Some of the primary information from the general profile is as follows:

■ Length of Time Homeless

More than half (51.3%) or 312 survey respondents stated that they were currently homeless one year or more. More than one-fourth (27.1%) or 165 survey respondents stated that they were currently homeless three years or more.

■ Income

Less than 20% (15.5%) or 94 survey respondents stated that they had a part-time job and a little more than 10% (11.8%) or 71 survey respondents stated that they had a full-time job. Together, more than one-fourth (27.1%) or 164 survey respondents stated that they had a part-time or full-time job.

Nearly half (45.7%) or 235 survey respondents stated that they did not have any monthly income; more than three-fourths (76.5%) or 394 stated that they had a monthly income that ranged between \$0.0 and \$800 a month; and nearly 85% (84.9%) or 437 stated that they had a monthly income that ranged between \$0.0 and \$1,000 a month.

■ Veteran Status

Nearly 15% (14.5%) or 90 survey respondents stated that they were a veteran. However, the number of men who were veterans was much higher than women—85 or 22.8% of men who were survey respondents stated that they were a veteran and 5 or 2.1% were women.

■ Domestic Violence and Assault

Nearly one-third (30.6%) or 190 survey respondents stated that they had been abused/mistreated by a spouse or intimate partner. The number of women who were abused/mistreated was much higher than men—125 or 51.3% of women who were survey respondents stated that they were abused/mistreated and 65 or 17.7% were men.

Twenty-five percent (25%) or 173 survey respondents stated that they had been a victim of assault while living on the street. The number of men who were assaulted was much higher than women—125 or 34.6% of men who were survey respondents stated that they were assaulted and 48 or 19.8% were women.

■ **Health Status**

Nineteen percent (19%) or 117 survey respondents stated that they have a physical or developmental disability that impairs activities such as walking, eating, breathing, reading, etc. The number of men who had a disability was higher than women—78 or 21.2% of men who were survey respondents stated that they had a disability and 39 or 16.2% were women.

■ **Foster Care**

Nearly 10% (9.3%) or 43 survey respondents stated that they had been in the foster care system.

■ **HIV/AIDS**

One and a half percent (1.5%) or eight (8) survey respondents stated that they were HIV+.

■ **Drug History**

Nearly half (47.5%) or 299 survey respondents stated that they have a substance abuse problem.

■ **Mental Health**

Nearly one-third (32.3%) or 204 survey respondents reported symptoms of mental illness.



The 2007 County of Riverside Homeless Survey

I. Introduction

The 2007 County of Riverside Homeless Survey was based upon a survey that was administered to 630 homeless adults. The number of adults who were surveyed is equivalent to nearly one of every five adults (17%) who were included in the homeless count.

Why Was the Survey Conducted?

The survey was conducted in order to:

1. provide a representative sample of a wide-range of information of the number of adults who were included in the homeless count;
2. input HUD required information concerning homeless subpopulations in Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance grant applications;
3. make available information to local jurisdictions to help meet requirements for planning documents such as consolidated plans, housing elements, and impediments to fair housing choice;
4. serve as a basis for developing strategies for public and private agencies to respond to specific needs of homeless families and individuals; and
5. develop strategies for filling gaps in services in the regional homeless continuum of care system through public and private collaborations.

When Was the Survey Conducted?

The survey was conducted over a 10 week period from March through mid-May of 2007.

Where Was the Survey Conducted?

The survey was conducted on the streets and in facilities that serve homeless persons. Of the 630 surveys, 247 or 39.2% were conducted on the streets and 383 or 60.8% in facilities.

Location	City/ Unincorporated Area	# of Surveys	% of Surveys
Circle of Hope.....	Corona	32	5.1
Crossroads	Unincorporated Area	60	9.6
Genesis House	City of Riverside	4.....	0.7
Jefferson Wellness	City of Riverside	2.....	0.3
King Hall	March Air Reserve Base.....	8.....	1.3
Martha's Village.....	City of Indio	136.....	21.5
Operation SafeHouse.....	City of Riverside	14.....	2.3
Path of Life Family Shelter.....	City of Riverside	15.....	2.4
Path of Life Shelter	City of Riverside	27.....	4.3
U.S. Vets.....	March Air Reserve Base	53	8.5
Valley Restart	City of Hemet	22.....	3.4
Whiteside Manor.....	City of Riverside	10.....	1.4
Streets	Various Locations.....	247.....	39.2
Totals:		630.....	100.0

A primary goal of the survey was to obtain a 20% sample of the number of adults who were enumerated during the 2007 County of Riverside Homeless Count. A sample of 17.1% of the number of adults who were enumerated during the 2007 County of Riverside Homeless Count was achieved. The sample, however, does not include survey respondents from every city or unincorporated area throughout the County. Several facilities that participated in the homeless count did not participate in the survey. Thus, the areas noted in the table above include only a portion of the cities and unincorporated areas that make up the County.

How the Survey Was Conducted?

Representatives from more than 30 public and private agencies, service-providers and faith-based institutions participated in conducting survey interviews throughout the county. The process involved administering a comprehensive one-on-one interview survey with a representative sampling of homeless adults in Riverside County. There were three (3) primary methods of contact with homeless persons who participated in the survey. They were: 1) interviews with homeless persons who were contacted on the streets; 2) interviews with homeless persons who were contacted while living in shelters and transitional housing; and 3) interviews with homeless persons who were contacted while using non-residential homeless services.

All surveyors who participated in administering the 110 question survey were oriented and trained by staff of the Institute for Urban Initiatives with assistance from the Department of Public Social Services Homeless Programs Unit staff. Using trained



interviewers to administer the survey, as opposed to conducting a self-administered survey instrument, increased the opportunity for collecting complete and accurate answers to the questions as well as provided opportunity for receiving useful evaluation information from the interviewers.

What Was Included in the Survey?

The survey instrument was designed to collect a wide-range of information on homeless individuals as well as assess their service needs using questions focusing on a wide range of areas including: Domestic Violence, Education, Ethnicity, Familial Status, Geo-History, Health Care, Income, Mental Health History, Residency, Substance Abuse History, Veteran's status, etc.

The survey instrument was also designed to compile a cross-section of information concerning several pre-determined sub-populations that included: chronically homeless persons, families with children, men, people living in homeless facilities, people living on the streets, persons with dual diagnoses, persons with HIV/AIDS, persons with mental illness, pregnant women, seniors, substance abusers, various ethnic groups, veterans, victims of domestic violence, unaccompanied youth, and women. As a result, the survey provides a sampling of data that helps us examine the issues and needs of each homeless sub-population as well as the entire homeless population.

Who Was Included in the Survey?

More than 600 adults (630) participated in the assessment survey providing us with detailed information about themselves and, when applicable, their children.

A demographic breakdown of survey respondents includes:

■ Gender

- 248 or 40.0% were women;
- 374 or 60.0% were men.

■ Ethnicity

- 29 or 5.0% were American Indian or Alaskan Native;
- 15 or 2.0% were Asian or Pacific Islander;
- 129 or 21.0% were Black or African American;
- 168 or 27.0% were Hispanic or Latino;
- 268 or 43.0% were White;
- 13 or 2% were "Other".

■ Age

- 24 or 4.0% were unaccompanied youth 17 years of age or younger;
- 79 or 13.0% were youth between the ages of 18 and 24;
- 320 or 51.0% were between the ages of 25 and 39;
- 307 or 49.0% were adults 40 years of age or older;
- 20 or 3.0% were adults 62 years of age or older.

II. General Profile

The following section provides a general profile of homelessness in the County of Riverside. The profile is based upon 17 categories of questions that were contained in the survey. Categories included:

- A. Location
- B. Length of Time Homeless
- C. Income
- D. Marital Status
- E. Veteran Status
- F. Domestic Violence and Assault
- G. Health Status
- H. Foster Care
- I. HIV/AIDS
- J. Pregnancy
- K. Drug History
- L. Tobacco
- M. Education
- N. Mental Health
- O. Food
- P. Religion
- Q. Children

A. Location

Questions concerning location focused on the following areas of concern: places of birth and local community “ties.”

■ Places of Birth

Survey respondents were asked in what country, state, and city were they born. Responses were as follows:

- **In What Country Were You Born?**

More than 90% (92.2%) or 581 survey respondents stated that they were born in the United States, 4.8% or 30 stated that they were born in Mexico, and 3% or 19 stated another country.

- **In What State Were You Born?**

More than 60% (61.9%) or 390 survey respondents stated that they were born in California, 3.3% or 21 stated Texas, and 3.0% or 19 stated Arizona. Nearly one-third (31.8%) 146 survey respondents stated some other state in the United States or another country.



- **In What City Were You Born?**

More than 200 cities were recorded. Nearly 10% (7.8%) or 49 survey respondents stated that they were born in the city of Indio, 7.6% or 48 stated Los Angeles, 6.0% or 38 stated Riverside, 2.9% or 18 stated Palm Springs, 2.4% or 15 stated San Diego, 2.2% or 14 stated Long Beach, 2.1% or 13 stated San Bernardino, 1.9% or 12 stated Corona, and 1.6% or 10 stated Banning. There were no other cities that had 10 (1.6%) survey respondents or more.

- **Local Community Ties**

A range of questions concerning “ties” to the county were asked. Such ties focused on whether survey respondents had family members or friends who lived in the county or whether they currently worked, worked in the past, or went to school in the county. An additional question was also asked—“Are you a resident of Riverside County?”

- **Are You A Resident of Riverside County?**

Nearly 90% (89.5%) or 561 survey respondents stated that they were a resident of the county.

- **Do You Have Family Who Live In Riverside County?**

More than half (54.8%) or 343 survey respondents stated that they have family who live in the county.

- **Do You Have Friends Who Live In Riverside County?**

Nearly three-fourths (74.9%) or 468 survey respondents stated that they have friends who live in the county.

- **Have You Ever Worked In Riverside County?**

More than two-thirds (67.7%) or 423 survey respondents stated that they worked in the county.

- **Are You Currently Working In Riverside County?**

Less than one-fourth (20.5%) or 128 survey respondents stated that they were currently working in the county.

- **Have You Ever Attended School In Riverside County?**

More than one-third (39.2%) or 245 survey respondents stated that they attended school in the county. When asked what level of school 21.7% or 137 stated elementary, 23.5% or 148 stated middle school/junior high, 29.2% or 184 stated high school, and 7.0% or 44 stated college.

B. Length of Time Homeless

The primary question in this section focused on the length of time of each survey respondent's current homeless experience.

- **How Long Have You Been Currently Homeless?**

Length of Time Homeless	Number	Percent
One Year Or More	312	51.3
Three Years Or More	165	27.1
Five Years Or More.....	89.....	14.7
10 Years Or More.....	18.....	3.0

More than half (51.3%) or 312 survey respondents stated that they were currently homeless one year or more. More than one-fourth (27.1%) or 165 survey respondents stated that they were currently homeless three years or more.

C. Income

Questions concerning income concentrate on employment and public assistance. Employment included part-time and full-time work and public assistance included current and past sources.

■ Employment

- **Do You Have a Part-Time Job?**

Less than 20% (15.5%) or 94 survey respondents stated that they had a part-time job.

- **Do You Have a Full-Time Job?**

A little more than 10% (11.8%) or 71 survey respondents stated that they had a full-time job.

Together, more than one-fourth (27.1%) or 164 survey respondents stated that they had a part-time or full-time job.

■ Public Assistance

- **Do You Receive Any Of The Following Kinds Of Monthly Incomes?**

More than one-third (38.9%) or 245 survey respondents stated that they were receiving one or more types of public assistance noted below. More survey respondents were receiving Food Stamps (18.5%) and Medi-Cal (17.0%) than other types of public assistance.



Type of Public Assistance	Yes	
	#	%
AFDC/TANF (CalWorks)	68	10.8
Social Security – Retirement (age 62+)	12	1.9
Social Security – Disability	65	10.4
General Relief	3	0.5
Unemployment	21	3.4
Veteran Benefits	14	2.3
Food Stamps	116	18.5
MediCare	22	3.5
Medi-Cal	107	17.0

- **If You Do Not Currently Receive Any Of These Monthly Incomes, Did You Receive Any Of These Monthly Incomes In The Past?**

Of the 385 survey respondents who were not currently receiving one of the types of public assistance noted above, 9.7% or 37 survey respondents had received one or more of the types of public assistance noted above in the past.

- **Total Monthly Income**

- **What is your total current monthly income?**

Of the 515 survey respondents who answered this question:

- Nearly half (45.7%) or 235 stated that they did not have any monthly income;
- More than half (57.5%) or 296 stated that they had a monthly income that was \$400 a month or less;
- More than three-fourths (76.5%) or 394 stated that they had a monthly income that was \$800 a month or less;
- Nearly 85% (84.9%) or 437 stated that they had a monthly income that was \$1,000 a month or less.

D. Marital Status

There was only one question concerning marital status which was:

- **What Is Your Marital Status?**

Just over 10% (11.6%) or 72 survey respondents stated that they were currently married. Of those who were not, 51.2% or 318 stated that they were single, 20.8% or 129 stated that they were divorced, and all others (83.6% or 102 survey respondents) stated that they were separated, widowed, or other.

E. Veteran Status

The primary question concerning veteran status was:

- **Are You A Veteran?**

Nearly 15% (14.5%) or 90 survey respondents stated that they were a veteran. However, the number of men who were veterans was much higher than women—85 or 22.8% of men who were survey respondents stated that they were a veteran and 5 or 2.1% were women.

Other questions concerning veteran status included:

- **What Is Your Period of Service?**

Nearly half of veterans (43.4% or 39) served during the Vietnam War, approximately 20% (21.2% or 19) served between the Vietnam War and the Persian Gulf War, and 20% or 18 served during the Persian Gulf War.

- **Do You Have A Veteran's Administration ID Card?**

Nearly 75% (74.5%) stated that they have a Veteran's Administration ID Card.

- **Have You Used Any Veteran Services In The Past?**

Nearly 75% (74.5%) stated that they have used veteran services in the past.

F. Domestic Violence and Assault

There were three (3) questions that were asked that concerned domestic violence and one question concerning physical assault. The three (3) questions concerning domestic violence were as follows:

- **Have You Ever Been Abused/Mistreated By A Spouse Or Intimate Partner?**

Nearly one-third (30.6%) or 190 survey respondents stated that they had been abused/mistreated by a spouse or intimate partner. The number of women who were abused/mistreated was much higher than men—125 or 51.3% of women who were survey respondents stated that they were abused/mistreated and 65 or 17.7% were men.

- **Have You Ever Been Abused/Mistreated By A Parent Or Relative?**

More than one-fourth (28.8%) or 178 survey respondents stated that they had been abused/mistreated by a parent or relative. The number of women who were abused/mistreated was slightly higher than men—77 or 31.9% of women who were survey respondents stated that they were abused/mistreated and 98 or 26.6% were men.



- **Have You Ever Been Abused/Mistreated By Someone Other Than A Spouse, Intimate Partner, Parent, Or Relative?**

Less than one-fourth (21.5%) or 133 survey respondents stated that they had been abused/mistreated by someone other than a spouse, intimate partner, parent, or relative. The number of women who were abused/mistreated was higher than men—64 or 26.6% of women who were survey respondents stated that they were abused/mistreated and 68 or 18.5% were men.

- **Have You Ever Been A Victim Of Assault While Living On The Street?**

Twenty-five percent (25%) or 173 survey respondents stated that they had been a victim of assault while living on the street. The number of men who were assaulted was much higher than women—125 or 34.6% of men who were survey respondents stated that they were assaulted and 48 or 19.8% were women.

- **Was the Assault Physical Or Sexual?**

Physical Assault

Of the 173 survey respondents who stated that they had been a victim of assault while living on the street, 157 or 90.8% stated that the assault was physical—121 or 77.1% were men and 36 or 22.9% were women.

Sexual Assault

Of the 173 survey respondents who stated that they had been a victim of assault while living on the street, 38 or 24.2% stated that the assault was sexual—27 or 71.7% were women and 11 or 28.3% were men.

G. Health Status

There were several questions concerning health care that focused on disability, health problems, and dental and vision care. They included the following:

- **Do You Have A Physical Or Developmental Disability That Impairs Any Activities Such As Walking, Eating, Breathing, Reading, Etc.?**

Nineteen percent (19.0%) or 117 survey respondents stated that they have a physical or developmental disability that impairs activities such as walking, eating, breathing, reading, etc. The number of men who had a disability was higher than women—78 or 21.2% of men who were survey respondents stated that they had a disability and 39 or 16.2% were women.

- **Do You Use Any Equipment Because Of Your Disability?**

Of the 117 survey respondents stated that they have a physical or developmental disability that impairs activities such as walking, eating, breathing, reading, etc., 48 or nearly half (41.1%) stated that they use equipment because of their disability. The number of men who used equipment was slightly higher than women—33 or 42.3% of men who were survey respondents stated that they used equipment and 15 or 38.5% were women.

- **Have Any Of The Following Health Problems Impacted Your Daily Functioning For Three (3) Months Or More?**

Survey respondents were asked if they had any of the following 18 health care problems:

Type of Health Problem	Yes	
	#	%
Anemia	23	3.7
Arthritis	70	11.1
Asthma	47	7.5
Cancer	6	1.0
Deafness	18	2.9
Dermatitis	7	1.1
Diabetes	51	8.1
Digestive Trouble	33	5.2
Epilepsy	8	1.3
Heart Trouble	26	4.1
High Blood Pressure	113	17.9
Infections	25	4.0
Obesity	33	5.2
Respiratory Problems	41	6.5
Seizures	27	4.3
Strokes	13	2.1
Tuberculosis	7	1.1
Hepatitis	34	5.4
Other: Back Problems	5	0.8

Under “other,” the most common health problem reported by survey respondents was “back problems.”

- **Have You Been Able To Obtain Services For The Health Care Needs You Noted Above When Needed?**

Nearly half (46.4%) or 251 survey respondents stated that they have been able to obtain services for their health care needs.



- **Do You Currently Need Health Care Services For Any Of The Conditions You Listed Above?**

Of the 251 survey respondents noted above, nearly every one of them (93.6% or 234) currently needed health care services for their health care problems.

- **Have You Had A Dental Exam During The Past Year?**

More than 25% (27.2%) or 169 survey respondents stated that they had a dental exam during the past year.

- **Have You Been Able To Obtain Dental Care When You Needed It?**

More than one-third (37.4%) or 228 survey respondents were able to obtain dental care when needed.

- **Do You Need Dental Care At This Time?**

Approximately two-thirds (66.1%) or 407 survey respondents stated that they needed dental care.

- **Have You Had A Vision Exam During The Past Year?**

Nearly 25% (24.9%) or 154 survey respondents stated that they had a vision exam during the past year.

- **Have You Been Able To Obtain Vision Care When You Needed It?**

More than one-third (35.7%) or 216 survey respondents stated that they were able to obtain vision care when needed.

- **Do You Need Vision Care At This Time?**

More than half (51.9%) or 321 survey respondents stated that they needed vision care.

- **Have You Had A Prescription You Could Not Fill?**

More than one-third (39.4%) or 245 survey respondents stated that they had a prescription that they could not fill.

H. Foster Care

Questions concerning foster care centered around current and past placement and incidents of homelessness during and after placement. They included:

- **Are You Currently In The Foster Care System?**

Only one (1) person was currently in the foster care system.

- **Have You Ever Been In The Foster Care System?**

Nearly 10% (9.3%) or 43 survey respondents stated that they had been in the foster care system.

- **When Were You Released From The Foster Care System?**

Of the 43 survey respondents that stated they had been in the foster care system, 86.1% or 37 had been released from the foster care system one year or more.

- **Were You Homeless During The Time You Were In Foster Care?**

Of the 43 survey respondents that stated they had been in the foster care system, 9.3% or 4 stated that they were homeless during the time they were in foster care.

- **How Long After Being Discharged From Foster Care Did You Become Homeless?**

Of the 43 survey respondents that stated they had been in the foster care system, 20.0% or seven (7) became homeless within one (1) year or less and more than half (54.3%) or 19 became homeless within five (5) years or less.

I. HIV/AIDS

Questions about HIV/AIDS focused on testing for HIV/AIDS and having HIV/AIDS. They included:

- **Have You Ever Been Tested For HIV/AIDS?**

Nearly two-thirds (62.9%) or 388 survey respondents stated that they had been tested for HIV/AIDS.

- **Do You Know Your Results?**

Of the 388 survey respondents stated that they had been tested for HIV/AIDS, nearly 90% (89.7%) or 348 stated that they knew their results.

- **Would You Like To Be Tested?**

Of the 229 survey respondents who stated that they had never been tested for HIV/AIDS, 98.6% or 206 stated that they would like to be tested.



- **Are You HIV+?**

One and a half percent (1.5%) or eight (8) survey respondents stated that they were HIV+.

J. Pregnancy

There was just one (1) question concerning pregnancy which was

- **Are You Pregnant?**

There were 24 survey respondents who were women who stated that they were pregnant.

K. Drug History

There were several questions concerning different types of drug use. Each question asked if the survey respondent was currently using, used in the past, or never used the drug. The primary question was:

- **Do You Now Use, Or Have You Ever Used, Any Of The Following Drugs?**

Type of Drug*	Current Use		Past Use		Never Used	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Alcohol	190	34.5	288	52.3	72	13.2
Marijuana.....	106	19.9	298	55.9	128	24.2
Uppers, Speed	66	13.1	216	42.8	223	44.1
Downers.....	15	15.9	106	23.7	327	60.4
Tranquilizers	14	12.3	76	17.4	348	70.3
Cocaine or Crack.....	31	6.5	184	38.5	263	55.0
PCP, LSD.....	7	1.6	103	23.2	334	75.2
Heroin	23	10.8	68	15.3	354	73.9

*These categories are not mutually exclusive.

- **Do You Have A Substance Abuse Problem?**

More than 25% (26.7%) or 162 survey respondents stated that they have a substance abuse problem.

L. Tobacco

The questions about tobacco focused on frequency of use and interest in quitting. They include:

- **Do You Smoke?**

Nearly two-thirds (63.5%) or 392 survey respondents stated that they smoke cigarettes.

- **How many Cigarettes Do You Smoke Per Day—less than one pack; one pack; or two or more packs?**

When asked how many cigarettes do you smoke per day, nearly half 48.3% or 178 survey respondents stated “less than one pack,” more than one-third (38.3%) or 141 stated “one pack,” and 13.6% or 50 stated “two or more packs.”

- **How Interested Are You In Quitting Smoking—not interested; somewhat interested; or very interested?**

When asked if they were interested in quitting, more than one-third (38.7%) or 134 stated “not interested,” approximately one-third (33.8%) or 117 stated “somewhat interested,” and more than one-fourth (27.7%) or 96 stated “very interested.”

- **Do You Chew Tobacco?**

Three percent (3.0%) or 18 survey respondents stated that they chew tobacco.

- **How Much Do You Chew Per Day—less than one container; one container; or two or more containers?**

When asked how much tobacco do you chew per day, nearly half 44.5% or 8 survey respondents stated “less than one container,” nearly half (44.5%) or 8 stated “one container,” and just over 10% (11.2%) or 2 stated “two or more containers.”

- **How Interested Are You In Quitting Chewing—not interested; somewhat interested; or very interested?**

When asked if they were interested in quitting, nearly two-thirds (61.2%) or 11 stated “not interested,” approximately one-third (33.4%) or six (6) stated “somewhat interested,” and one (5.6%) stated “very interested.”

M. Education

Questions about education asked about the highest grade completed, vocational training, and business school attendance. They specifically asked



- **What Is The Highest Grade Of School That You Completed?**

Nearly two-thirds (60.8%) or 376 survey respondents completed high school. Of the 376 survey respondents, nearly 40% (39.9%) or 150 survey respondents completed some junior college, college, or post-graduate education.

- **Have You Ever Completed A Vocational Training Course?**

More than one-fourth (26.6%) or 159 survey respondents stated that they completed a vocational training course.

- **Have You Ever Attended A Business School?**

Less than 10% (9.1%) or 54 respondents stated that they attended a business school.

N. Mental Health

There were several questions about mental health symptoms and medications which are given below. In addition, there was a question that was answered by the interviewer which was—does the interviewee act/converse in a mentally unstable manner.

- **Have You Ever Been Diagnosed With A Mental Or Emotional Problem?**

Nearly one-third (30.0%) or 184 survey respondents stated that they have been diagnosed with a mental or emotional problem.

- **If Yes, Have You Experienced Any Symptoms Of This Diagnosis Within The Past Year?**

Of the 184 survey respondents who stated that they have been diagnosed with a mental or emotional problem, nearly three-fourths (72.9%) or 134 stated had experienced symptoms within the past year.

- **Have You Ever Been Prescribed Medications For Mental Or Emotional Problems?**

Nearly one third (30.3%) or 184 survey respondents stated that they had been prescribed medications for mental or emotional problems.

- **If Yes, Are You Currently Taking Any Psychotropic (Psychiatric) Medications?**

Of the 184 survey respondents who stated that they had been prescribed medications for mental or emotional problems, about 40% (40.8%) or 75 stated that they were currently taking psychotropic medications.

- **Have You Been Hospitalized For Psychiatric Problems During The Past Year?**

Over 10% (11.6%) or 70 survey respondents stated that they had been hospitalized for psychiatric problems during the past year.

- **If No, Have You Ever Been Hospitalized For Psychiatric Reasons?**

Of those survey respondents who stated “no” to the above question, 12.3% or 66 stated “yes” when asked if they had ever been hospitalized for psychiatric reasons.

- **Have You Ever Seen A Counselor For Help While Dealing With Your Emotions Or Stress?**

Over 40% (40.9%) or 252 survey respondents stated that they had seen a counselor for help while dealing with emotions or stress.

- **Have Friends Or Family Ever Expressed Concern About Your Mental Health?**

More than one-fourth (27.3%) or 167 survey respondents stated that friends or family expressed concern about their mental health.

- **Does The Interviewee Act/Converse In A Mentally Unstable Manner (answered by the Interviewer)?**

More than 10% (10.4%) or 65 survey respondents acted/conversed in a mentally unstable manner according to the interviewer.

O. Food

Questions about food centered on number of daily meals and any difficulty accessing food. They included:

- **How many Meals Do You Provide (Prepare) For Yourself Each Day?**

More than one-third (38.5%) or 231 survey respondents stated that they do not prepare any meals for themselves each day; nearly one-fourth (23.0%) or 138 stated one (1) meal each day; less than 20% (16.9%) or 101 stated two (2) meals each day; and more than 20% (21.6%) or 130 stated three (3) meals or more each day.

- **Do You Have Difficulty Accessing Food?**

More than one-third (34.7%) or 214 survey respondents stated that they have difficulty accessing food.



- **How Many Meals Do You Usually Eat Each Day?**

Nearly half (42.5%) or 257 survey respondents stated that they usually eat three (3) meals per day; approximately one-third (32.1%) stated two (2) meals per day; and about one-fourth (25.3%) stated one (1) meal per day.

- **Have You Had To Skip Meals In The Past Month Because There Was Not Enough Money To Buy Food?**

More than half (55.7%) or 345 survey respondents stated that they had to skip meals because they did not have enough money to buy food.

P. Religion

Questions concerning religion focused on personal faith, service attendance, and its impact on people during their homeless experience. They included:

- **Do You Consider Yourself A Religious Person?**

Nearly two-thirds (64.5%) or 400 survey respondents stated that they considered themselves a religious person.

- **Are You A Member Of A Religious Faith?**

More than half (52.1%) or 323 survey respondents stated that they were members of a religious faith.

- **Do You Regularly Attend A Religious Service?**

More than one-third (36.4%) or 226 survey respondents stated that they attend a religious service.

- **Were You Raised As A Child In A Religious Home?**

More than half (59.3%) or 368 survey respondents stated that they were raised as a child in a religious home.

- **Has Your Faith Increased Or Decreased During Your Homeless Experience?**

More than half (59.0%) or 354 survey respondents stated that their faith increased during their homeless experience.

Q. Children

There were 205 children living with survey respondents. Questions concerning children were answered by the adult survey respondents who were with them. Questions included:

- **Do You Have Any Children Living With You?**

Nearly 20% (19.1%) of survey respondents stated that they had children living with them.

- **How Many?**

When asked how many, nearly half (44.6%) or 49 survey respondents stated one child, nearly one-fourth (24.6%) or 27 stated two (2) children; and nearly one-third (30.8%) or 34 stated three (3) children or more.

- **Is Your Child Enrolled In School?**

Eighty (80.0%) or 88 survey respondents stated that their children were enrolled in school.

- **Have You Been Able To Obtain Health Care For Your Children?**

More than 90% (93.7%) or 103 survey respondents stated that they were able to obtain health care for their children.

- **Have You Been Able To Provide Three Meals A Day For Your Children?**

Nearly 90% (86.2%) or 95 survey respondents stated that they were able to provide three (3) meals a day for their children.

- **Are You The Only Parent In Your Household?**

Nearly two-thirds (63.0%) or 68 survey respondents stated that they were the only parent in their household.

III. SUB-POPULATIONS

The survey instrument was designed to compile a cross-section of information concerning several pre-determined sub-populations that included: chronic homeless persons, persons with mental illness, seniors, substance abusers, veterans, victims of domestic violence, and unaccompanied youth. As a result, the survey provides a sampling of data that helps us examine several of the issues and needs of each homeless sub-population.



Chronic Homelessness



KEY FINDING

- 30.8% of survey respondents were chronically homeless.

Of the 630 survey respondents, 193 or 30.8% stated that they were chronically homeless.

According to HUD, a chronically homeless person is an unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more or has had at least four (4) episodes of homelessness in the past three (3) years. Disabling condition is defined as “a diagnosable substance (abuse), serious mental illness, developmental disability, or chronic physical illness or disability, including the co-occurrence of two or more of these conditions.” Also, to be considered chronically homeless, persons must have been sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation (e.g., living on the streets) or in an emergency homeless shelter during that time.

The following information provides a profile of chronic homeless persons. Information includes gender, ethnicity, age, length of time homeless, income, marital status, veteran status, health status, foster care placement, HIV+, and education.

■ Gender:

- 1) 28% (54) were women and 72% (138) were men.

■ Ethnicity:

- 2) 5.2% (10) were American Indian or Alaskan Native; 3.1% (6) were Asian; 17.6% (34) were Black or African American; 21.2% (41) were Hispanic or Latino; 49.2% (95) were White; and 2.6% (5) stated Other.

■ Age:

- 3) 14.0% (27) were youth between the ages of 18 and 24; 47.1% (91) were under the age of 40; 52.9% (102) were 40 years of age or older; 2.1% (4) were 62 years of age or older; and 0.0% (0) were 65 years of age or older.

■ Length of Time Homeless:

- 4) 75.2% (145) were currently homeless one year or more; 25.4% (49) were currently homeless five years or more; and 6.3% (12) was currently homeless 10 years or more.

■ **Employment:**

- 5) 22.3% (43) were employed—12% (23) were employed part-time and 10.3% (20) were employed full-time.

■ **Marital Status:**

- 6) 8.8% (17) stated that they were currently married; 47.7% (92) stated that they were currently single; 11.9% (23) were separated; 26.9% (52) were divorced, and 4.1% (8) were widowed.

■ **Veteran Status:**

- 7) 18.7% (36) were veterans. All of the veterans were men.

■ **Disability:**

- 8) 26.9% (52) stated that they have a physical or developmental disability that impairs activities such as walking, eating, breathing, reading, etc.

■ **Foster Care:**

- 9) 9.8% (19) stated that they had “been in the foster care system.”

■ **HIV/AIDS:**

- 10) 2.6% or (5) stated that they were HIV+.

■ **Education:**

- 11) 39.9% (77) persons stated that they completed less than 12 years of education; 60.1% (116) completed high school; 16.1% (31) completed some college or post high school education; 7.8% (15) completed 4 years of college; and, 3.6% (7) completed a post graduate degree.

Persons With Mental Illness



KEY FINDING

- 32.3% of survey respondents reported symptoms of mental illness.

Of the 630 survey respondents, 32.3% or 204 of them reported symptoms of mental illness. A person with symptoms of mental illness was defined as an individual who answered “yes” to the following sets of questions (see Appendix B for list of questions):

- Questions 45 and 45a;
- Questions 45 and 50;



- Questions 46 and 46a;
- Questions 46 and 50;
- Questions 47 and 50;
- Questions 47a and 50;
- Questions 49 and 50; and
- Any three (3) questions between 45 and 50.

The following information provides a profile of persons with symptoms of mental illness. Information includes gender, ethnicity, age, length of time homeless, income, marital status, veteran status, health status, foster care placement, HIV+, and education.

■ **Gender:**

- 1) 61.3% (124) were men and 38.7% (78) were women.

■ **Ethnicity:**

- 2) 5.4% (11) were American Indian or Alaskan Native; 2.9% (6) were Asian/Pacific Islander; 19.6% (40) were Black or African American; 13.2% (27) were Hispanic or Latino; 57.4% (117) were White; and 1.5% (3) stated Other.

■ **Age:**

- 3) 1.0% (2) were unaccompanied (without parents) teenagers between the ages of 13 and 17; 13.2% (27) were youth between the ages of 18 and 24; 72.0% (147) were under the age of 40; 27.9% (57) were 40 years of age or older; 2.4% (5) were 62 years of age or older; and 1.4% (3) were 65 years of age or older.

■ **Length of Time Homeless:**

- 4) 51.9% (106) were currently homeless one year or more; 19.6% (40) were currently homeless five years or more; and 4.9% (10) were currently homeless 10 years or more.

■ **Employment:**

- 5) 20.0% (41) were employed—10.7% (22) were employed part-time and 9.3% (19) were employed full-time.

■ **Marital Status:**

- 6) 5.8% (12) stated that they were currently married; 29.9% (61) were divorced; and 4.9% (10) were separated, widowed, or stated other.

■ **Veteran Status:**

- 7) 22.0% (45) were veterans—a breakdown by gender notes that 42 of veterans were men which mean that 42 of the 124 men or 33.8% were veterans.

■ **Disability:**

- 8) 34.3% (70) stated that they have a physical or developmental disability that impairs activities such as walking, eating, breathing, reading, etc.

■ **Foster Care:**

- 9) 10.7% (22) stated that they had “been in the foster care system.”

■ **HIV/AIDS:**

- 10) 1.9% or (4) stated that they are HIV+.

■ **Education:**

- 11) 60.2% (123) stated that they completed high school.

Substance Abusers



KEY FINDING

- 47.5% of survey respondents stated that they are a substance abuser.

Two hundred and ninety-nine (299) or 47.5% stated that they were substance abusers. A substance abuser was defined as an individual who answered “yes” to the question “Do you have a substance abuse problem” and/or stated “yes” when asked if they currently use any of the following drugs: alcohol, marijuana, uppers/speed, downers, tranquilizers, cocaine/crack, PCP/LSD, heroin, and/or methadone.

The following information provides a profile of substance abusers. Information includes gender, ethnicity, age, length of time homeless, income, marital status, veteran status, health status, foster care placement, HIV+, and education.

■ **Gender:**

1. 69.3% (207) were men and 30.7% (90) were women.

■ **Ethnicity:**

- 2) 5.1% (15) were American Indian or Alaskan Native; 2.4% (7) were Asian/Pacific Islander; 18.3% (54) were Black or African American; 27.1% (80) were Hispanic or Latino; 45.0% (133) were White; and 2.4% (7) stated Other.



■ **Age:**

- 3) 2.4% (7) were unaccompanied (without parents) teenagers between the ages of 13 and 17; 14.1% (42) were youth between the ages of 18 and 24; 49.7% (148) were under the age of 40; 50.3% (150) were 40 years of age or older; 1.7% (5) were 62 years of age or older; and 0.0% (0) were 65 years of age or older.

■ **Length of Time Homeless:**

- 4) 48.8% (142) were currently homeless one year or more; 20.7% (60) were currently homeless five years or more; and 5.2% (15) were currently homeless 10 years or more.

■ **Employment:**

- 5) 19.1% (56) were employed—17.0% (50) were employed part-time and 2.1% (6) were employed full-time.

■ **Marital Status:**

- 6) 9.0% (28) stated that they were currently married; 22.0% (69) were divorced; and 16.9% (53) were separated, widowed, or stated other.

■ **Veteran Status:**

- 7) 12.6% (37) were veterans—a breakdown by gender notes that 36 veterans were men which mean that 36 of the 207 men or 17.4% were veterans.

■ **Disability:**

- 8) 22.1% (65) stated that they have a physical or developmental disability that impairs activities such as walking, eating, breathing, reading, etc.

■ **Foster Care:**

- 9) 9.9% (21) stated that they had “been in the foster care system.”

■ **HIV/AIDS:**

- 10) 2.3% or (6) stated that they are HIV+.

■ **Education:**

- 11) 56.4% (168) stated that they completed high school.

Veterans



KEY FINDING

- 14.5% (90) of survey respondents stated that they were a veteran—22.8% (85) of men stated that they were a veteran and 2.1% (5) of women stated that they were a veteran.

A veteran was defined as an individual who answered “yes” to the question “are you a veteran?”

The following information provides a profile of veterans. Information includes gender, ethnicity, age, length of time homeless, income, marital status, health status, foster care placement, HIV+, and education.

■ Gender:

- 1) 22.8% (85) were men and 2.1% (5) were women.

■ Ethnicity:

- 2) 2.3% (2) were American Indian or Alaskan Native; 2.3% (2) were Asian/Pacific Islander; 32.3% (29) were Black or African American; 18.9% (17) were Hispanic or Latino; 42.3% (38) were White; and 0.0% (0) stated Other.

■ Age:

- 3) 0.0% (0) were unaccompanied (without parents) teenagers between the ages of 13 and 17; 0.0% (0) were youth between the ages of 18 and 24; 18.0% (16) were under the age of 40; 82.0% (73) were 40 years of age or older; 4.5% (4) were 62 years of age or older; and 0.0% (0) were 65 years of age or older.

■ Length of Time Homeless:

- 4) 59.8% (52) were currently homeless one year or more; 25.3% (22) were currently homeless five years or more; and 11.5% (10) were currently homeless 10 years or more.

■ Employment:

- 5) 36.7% (33) were employed—11.2% (10) were employed part-time and 25.6% (23) were employed full-time.



■ **Marital Status:**

- 6) 3.3% (3) stated that they were currently married; 45.1% (41) were divorced; and 17.6% (16) were separated, widowed, or stated other.

■ **Veteran Status:**

- 7) noted above.

■ **Disability:**

- 8) 35.2% (32) stated that they have a physical or developmental disability that impairs activities such as walking, eating, breathing, reading, etc.

■ **Foster Care:**

- 9) 5.1% (4) stated that they had “been in the foster care system.”

■ **HIV/AIDS:**

- 10) 0.0% or (0) stated that they are HIV+.

■ **Education:**

- 11) 88.9% (80) stated that they completed high school.

Youth 18 - 24



KEY FINDING

- 12.6% of survey respondents stated that they were a youth between the ages of 18 – 24.

The total number of homeless persons between the ages of 18 and 24 years of age was 79 which represents 12.6% of all survey respondents.

The following information provides a profile of substance abusers. Information includes gender, ethnicity, age, length of time homeless, income, marital status, veteran status, health status, foster care placement, HIV+, and education.

■ **Gender:**

- 1) 53.2% (42) were men and 46.8% (37) were women.

■ **Ethnicity:**

- 2) 7.6% (6) were American Indian or Alaskan Native; 6.4% (5) were Asian/Pacific Islander; 15.3% (12) were Black or African American; 30.7% (24) were Hispanic or Latino; 34.6% (27) were White; and 5.1% (4) stated Other.

■ **Age:**

- 3) 100% (79) were youth between the ages of 18 and 24.

■ **Length of Time Homeless:**

- 4) 50.6% (39) were currently homeless one year or more; 3.9% (4) were currently homeless five years or more; and 1.3% (1) was currently homeless 10 years or more.

■ **Employment:**

- 5) 27.8% (22) were employed—20.3% (16) were employed part-time and 8.9% (7) were employed full-time.

■ **Marital Status:**

- 6) 12.7% (10) stated that they were currently married; 2.5% (2) were separated; 11.5% (9) were divorced, widowed, or stated other.

■ **Veteran Status:**

- 7) There were no veterans among homeless persons between the ages of 18-24.

■ **Disability:**

- 8) 6.3% (5) stated that they have a physical or developmental disability that impairs activities such as walking, eating, breathing, reading, etc.

■ **Foster Care:**

- 9) 11.4% (9) stated that they had “been in the foster care system.”

■ **HIV/AIDS:**

- 10) 2.7% or (2) stated that they are HIV+.

■ **Education:**

- 11) 53.2% (42) persons stated that they completed less than 12 years of education; 40.5% (32) completed high school; 5.1% (4) completed some college or post high school education; and, 1.3% (1) completed 4 years of college.



Seniors 62+



KEY FINDING

- 3.2% of survey respondents stated that they were a senior 62 years of age or older.

Of the 630 survey respondents, 20 or 3.2% stated that they were seniors age 62 or older.

The following information provides a profile of substance abusers. Information includes gender, ethnicity, age, length of time homeless, income, marital status, veteran status, health status, foster care placement, HIV+, and education.

■ Gender:

- 1) 25% (5) were men and 75% (15) were women.

■ Ethnicity:

- 2) 5.2% (1) were American Indian or Alaskan Native; 26.3% (5) were Black or African American; 5.2% (1) were Hispanic or Latino; 57% (11) were White; and 5.2% (1) stated Other.

■ Age:

- 3) 40% (8) among respondents who were 62 years or older were individuals between the ages of 62 and 64; 45% (9) were individuals between the ages of 65 and 69; 15% (3) individuals were 70 years of age or older.

■ Length of Time Homeless:

- 4) 45% (9) were currently homeless one year or more; 30% (6) were currently homeless five years or more; and 5% (1) was currently homeless 10 years or more.

■ Employment:

- 5) 10% (2) were employed—5% (1) were employed part-time and 5% (1) were employed full-time.

■ Marital Status:

- 6) 0.0% (0) stated that they were currently married; 40% (8) stated that they were currently single; 15% (3) were separated; 35% (7) were divorced, and 10% (2) were widowed.

■ Veteran Status:

- 7) 30% (6) were veterans. All of the veterans were men.

■ **Disability:**

- 8) 55% (11) stated that they have a physical or developmental disability that impairs activities such as walking, eating, breathing, reading, etc.

■ **Foster Care:**

- 9) 9.9% (2) stated that they had “been in the foster care system.”

■ **HIV/AIDS:**

- 10) 17.7% or (3) stated that they were HIV+.

■ **Education:**

- 11) 37% (7) persons stated that they completed less than 12 years of education; 21% (4) completed high school; 21% (4) completed some college or post high school education; 10.5% (2) completed 4 years of college; and, 10.5% (2) completed a post graduate degree.

IV. Conclusion

There is one thing that we can all agree on – the streets are not a home. The information and issues identified within this report underlines the complex nature of homelessness within Riverside County. However, one thing that becomes very clear is the fact that homelessness is not caused merely by a lack of shelter, but involves a variety of underlying issues – physical, economic and social – that must be addressed if we are to fully alleviate homelessness as we know it today within our communities.

The results of the 2007 Homeless Count combined with the results of the 2007 Homeless Survey provides information that serves as the basis for three (3) important tasks:

- understanding the nature and extent of the current trends in homelessness in Riverside County communities;
- responding to the unmet needs and gaps in services for homeless individuals and families in Riverside County;
- developing local community and countywide strategies to meet the goal of ending homelessness over the next ten years.

The challenge is to develop solution-oriented approaches through a well-coordinated, outcome driven social service system designed to directly meet the needs of the local homeless population. Such activities will further build upon collaborative efforts between homeless service providers, business enterprises, residents, faith-based organizations, other community agencies, and local government that will provide service-enriched program environments in which homeless persons will receive the tools necessary to achieve self-sufficiency and maintain permanent housing.



Thus, an important use of this report is to provide accurate information necessary to design and implement the housing and social service assistance needed to bring homeless persons back into our workforce, schools, faith-based institutions, and other community institutions and provide the means for them to become stable, productive contributors to our communities.

Appendix A

LOCATION: _____ SURVEYOR: _____

2007 COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE HOMELESS SURVEY

A. PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

- 1) Gender: ☐ Female ☐ Male
- 2) Ethnicity: ☐ American Indian or Alaskan Native ☐ Hispanic or Latino
☐ Asian/Pacific Islander ☐ White
☐ Black or African-American ☐ Other _____
- 3) Age: ☐ 13 - 17 ☐ 30 - 39 ☐ 55 - 59 ☐ 65 - 69
☐ 18 - 24 ☐ 40 - 49 ☐ 60 - 61 ☐ 70+
☐ 25 - 29 ☐ 50 - 54 ☐ 62 - 64

B. GEO-HISTORY:

- 4) Where were you born?
4a) Country: ☐ U.S. ☐ Other: _____ (Please Record Other Country)
4b) If born in U.S., which State: ☐ California ☐ Other _____ (Please Record Other State)
4c) If born in U.S., which City? _____ (Please Record City)
- 5) In what city and state did you **FIRST** become homeless?
(City) _____ (State) _____
- 6) How long have you been **currently** homeless? _____
- 7) Have you been currently living on the street and/or in shelters for at least 1 year?
☐ Yes ☐ No
- 8) How many times have you experienced homelessness during the last 3 years? _____ times
- 9) How old were you the first time you became homeless? _____ (Please Record Age)
- 10) What city do you consider to be your home? _____
- 11) How long have you been living in the above city? _____
- 12) Are you a resident of Riverside County? ☐ Yes ☐ No
12a) What City? _____
- 13) Do you have family who live in Riverside County? ☐ Yes ☐ No
13a) What City? _____

2007 COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE HOMELESS SURVEY

14) Do you have friends who live in Riverside County? ☐ Yes ☐ No

14a) What City? _____

15) Have you ever worked in Riverside County? ☐ Yes ☐ No

15a) What City? _____

16) Are you currently working in Riverside County? ☐ Yes ☐ No

16a) What City? _____

17) Have you ever attended school in Riverside County? ☐ Yes ☐ No

17a) What City? _____

If YES to #17:

17b) Check all that apply:

☐ Elementary ☐ Middle School/Jr. High ☐ High School ☐ College

C. INCOME:

18) Do you have a part-time job? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you have a full-time job? ☐ Yes ☐ No

(Person must be earning *minimum wages or more*).

19) If you are not currently employed, when was the last time you were employed? _____

20) What was the reason that you left your job? ☐ laid off ☐ fired ☐ other: _____

21) What is your primary occupation? _____

22) Do you receive any of the following kinds of monthly incomes (check all that apply):

<input type="checkbox"/> (AFDC/TANF)	<input type="checkbox"/> (Food Stamps)
<input type="checkbox"/> (Social Security - Retirement (age 62+))	<input type="checkbox"/> (MediCare)
<input type="checkbox"/> (Social Security - Disability)	<input type="checkbox"/> (Medi-Cal)
<input type="checkbox"/> (GR)	<input type="checkbox"/> (Union Pension)
<input type="checkbox"/> (Unemployment)	<input type="checkbox"/> (Other: Please Describe) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> (Veterans Benefits)	

22a) If you do not currently receive any of these monthly incomes, did you receive any of these monthly incomes in the past? ☐ Yes ☐ No

2007 COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE HOMELESS SURVEY

22b) If so, which ones:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> (AFDC/TANF) | <input type="checkbox"/> (Veterans Benefits) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (Social Security - Retirement (age 62+)) | <input type="checkbox"/> (Food Stamps) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (Social Security - Disability) | <input type="checkbox"/> (MediCare) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (GR) | <input type="checkbox"/> (Medi-Cal) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (Unemployment) | <input type="checkbox"/> (Union Pension) |

23) What Is Your Total Current Monthly Income? _____

D. FAMILY HISTORY:

24) What is your marital status?

- ☐ Single
☐ Married
☐ Separated
☐ Divorced
☐ Widowed
☐ Other _____ (Please Describe)

E. VETERAN'S STATUS:

25) Are you a veteran? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If YES to #25, please answer the following:

25a) Period of service:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> World War II (12/41 to 12/46) | <input type="checkbox"/> Vietnam (8/64 to 4/75) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Korea (1/47 to 6/50) | <input type="checkbox"/> Post-Vietnam (5/75 to 7/90) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Korea (7/50 to 1/55) | <input type="checkbox"/> Persian Gulf (8/90 to Present) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Vietnam (2/55 to 7/64) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

26) Do you have a VA medical card? ☐ Yes ☐ No

27) Have you used any veteran services in the past? ☐ Yes ☐ No

F. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:

28) Have you ever been abused/mistreated by a spouse or intimate partner? ☐ Yes ☐ No

29) Have you ever been abused/mistreated by a parent or relative? ☐ Yes ☐ No

30) Have you ever been abused/mistreated by someone other than a spouse, intimate partner, parent, or relative? ☐ Yes ☐ No

2007 COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE HOMELESS SURVEY

31) Have you ever been a victim of assault while living on the streets? ☐ Yes ☐ No

IF YES to #31, please answer the following:

31a) Was the assault: Physical ☐ Yes ☐ No
Sexual ☐ Yes ☐ No

G. HEALTH STATUS:

32) Do you have a physical or developmental disability that impairs any activities such as walking, eating, breathing, reading, etc.? ☐ Yes ☐ No

33) Do you use any equipment because of your disability? ☐ Yes ☐ No

34) Have any of the following health problems impacted your daily functioning for 3 months or more?

<input type="checkbox"/> anemia	<input type="checkbox"/> high blood pressure
<input type="checkbox"/> arthritis	<input type="checkbox"/> infections
<input type="checkbox"/> asthma	<input type="checkbox"/> obesity
<input type="checkbox"/> cancer	<input type="checkbox"/> respiratory problems
<input type="checkbox"/> deafness	<input type="checkbox"/> seizures
<input type="checkbox"/> dermatitis	<input type="checkbox"/> strokes
<input type="checkbox"/> diabetes	<input type="checkbox"/> tuberculosis
<input type="checkbox"/> digestive trouble	<input type="checkbox"/> hepatitis
<input type="checkbox"/> epilepsy	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> heart trouble	

35) Have you been able to obtain services for the health care needs you noted above when needed? ☐ Yes ☐ No

35a) Do you currently need health care services for any of the conditions you listed above?
☐ Yes ☐ No

36) Have you had a dental exam during the past year? ☐ Yes ☐ No

36a) Have you been able to obtain dental care when you needed it? ☐ Yes ☐ No

36b) Do you need dental care at this time? ☐ Yes ☐ No

37) Have you had a vision exam during the past year? ☐ Yes ☐ No

37a) Have you been able to obtain vision care when you needed it? ☐ Yes ☐ No

37b) Do you need vision care at this time? ☐ Yes ☐ No

38) Have you had a prescription you could **not** fill? ☐ Yes ☐ No

2007 COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE HOMELESS SURVEY

I. FOSTER CARE:

39) Are you currently in the foster care system? ☐ Yes (**skip to question #40**) ☐ No

40) Have you ever been in the foster care system? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If YES to #40:

40a) When were you released from the foster care system?

☐ 1 month ago ☐ 3 months ago ☐ 6 months ago ☐ 12+ months ago

40b) How old were you when you were released from foster care? Age: _____

40c) Were you homeless during the time you were in foster care? ☐ Yes ☐ No

40d) How long after being discharged from foster care did you become homeless?
_____ months _____ years

J. HIV/AIDS:

41) Have you ever been tested for HIV/AIDS? ☐ Yes ☐ No

41a) **IF YES**, when were you tested? _____

41b) Do you know your results? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If NO to #41:

42) Would you like to be tested for HIV/AIDS? ☐ Yes ☐ No

43) Are you HIV+? ☐ Yes ☐ No

43a) Do you know if you are: ☐ w/o symptoms ☐ with symptoms ☐ AIDS diagnosis

K. PREGNANCY:

44) Are you pregnant? ☐ Yes ☐ No

**AT THIS POINT, REMIND CLIENT AGAIN THAT THE SURVEY IS CONFIDENTIAL
AND THAT HIS/HER IDENTITY IS PROTECTED!**

L. DRUG HISTORY:

45) Do you now use, or have you ever used, any of the following drugs?

Alcohol	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, currently	<input type="checkbox"/> In the past	<input type="checkbox"/> Never
Marijuana	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, currently	<input type="checkbox"/> In the past	<input type="checkbox"/> Never
Uppers, speed	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, currently	<input type="checkbox"/> In the past	<input type="checkbox"/> Never
Downers	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, currently	<input type="checkbox"/> In the past	<input type="checkbox"/> Never
Tranquilizers	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, currently	<input type="checkbox"/> In the past	<input type="checkbox"/> Never
Cocaine or Crack	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, currently	<input type="checkbox"/> In the past	<input type="checkbox"/> Never
PCP, LSD	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, currently	<input type="checkbox"/> In the past	<input type="checkbox"/> Never
Heroin	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, currently	<input type="checkbox"/> In the past	<input type="checkbox"/> Never
Methadone	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, currently	<input type="checkbox"/> In the past	<input type="checkbox"/> Never

46) Do you have a substance abuse problem? ☐ Yes ☐ No

M. TOBACCO:

47) Do you smoke? ☐ Yes ☐ No

IF "YES" to #47:

47a) How many cigarettes do you smoke per day?

☐ Less than one pack ☐ One pack ☐ Two or more packs

47b) How interested are you in quitting smoking?

☐ Not interested ☐ Somewhat interested ☐ Very interested

48) Do you chew tabbaco? ☐ Yes ☐ No

IF "YES" to #48c:

48a) How much do you chew per day?

☐ Less than one container ☐ One container ☐ Two or more containers

48b) How interested are you in quitting?

☐ Not interested ☐ Somewhat interested ☐ Very interested

N. EDUCATION:

49) What is the highest grade of school that you completed?

Circle one: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
 13 Some college or post-high school
 14 Junior College
 15 4 Year College graduate
 16 Post-graduate

50) Have you ever completed a vocational training course? ☐ Yes ☐ No

2007 COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE HOMELESS SURVEY

50a) If **YES**, what kind? _____

51) Have you ever attended a business school? ☐ Yes ☐ No

O. MENTAL HEALTH:

52) Have you ever been diagnosed with a mental or emotional problem? ☐ Yes ☐ No

52a) If **YES**, have you experienced any symptoms of this diagnosis within the past year?
☐ Yes ☐ No

53) Have you ever been prescribed medications for mental or emotional problems?
☐ Yes ☐ No

53a) If **YES**, Are you **currently taking** any psychotropic (psychiatric) medications?
☐ Yes ☐ No

54) Have you been hospitalized for psychiatric problems during the past year?
☐ Yes ☐ No

54a) If **NO**, have you **ever been** hospitalized for psychiatric reasons?
☐ Yes ☐ No

55) Have you ever seen a counselor for help dealing with your emotions or stress?
☐ Yes ☐ No

56) Have friends or family ever expressed concern about your mental health?
☐ Yes ☐ No

Answered by the Interviewer

57) Does the interviewee act/converse in a **mentally unstable** manner? ☐ Yes ☐ No

P. FOOD:

58) How many meals do you provide (prepare) for yourself each day? _____

59) Do you have difficulty accessing food? ☐ Yes ☐ No

60) How many meals do you usually eat each day? _____

61) Have you had to skip meals in the past month because there was not enough money to buy food? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Q. RELIGION:

- 62) Do you consider yourself a religious person? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- 63) Are you a member of a religious faith? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- 64) Do you regularly attend a religious service? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- 65) Were you raised as a child in a religious home? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- 66) Has your faith increased or decreased during your homeless experience? ☐ Yes ☐ No

R. CHILDREN:

- 67) Do you have any children living with you? ☐ Yes ☐ No (if no, survey is completed)
- 67a) How many? _____
- 67b) What is the gender of the child(ren)?
- Child 1 ☐ Male ☐ Female
- Child 2 ☐ Male ☐ Female
- Child 3 ☐ Male ☐ Female
- Child 4 ☐ Male ☐ Female
- Child 5 ☐ Male ☐ Female
- 67c) How long has each child been homeless?
- Child 1 ☐ 1 week or less ☐ 1 month or less ☐ 1-6 months ☐ 6 months to 1 year
- Child 2 ☐ 1 week or less ☐ 1 month or less ☐ 1-6 months ☐ 6 months to 1 year
- Child 3 ☐ 1 week or less ☐ 1 month or less ☐ 1-6 months ☐ 6 months to 1 year
- Child 4 ☐ 1 week or less ☐ 1 month or less ☐ 1-6 months ☐ 6 months to 1 year
- Child 5 ☐ 1 week or less ☐ 1 month or less ☐ 1-6 months ☐ 6 months to 1 year
- 67d) Is your child(ren) enrolled in school?
- Child 1 ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Child 2 ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Child 3 ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Child 4 ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Child 5 ☐ Yes ☐ No
- 67e) If YES to 25f, is your child enrolled in a meal program at school?
- Child 1 ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Child 2 ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Child 3 ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Child 4 ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Child 5 ☐ Yes ☐ No

2007 COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE HOMELESS SURVEY

67f) Does your child(ren) have health care?

Child 1 ☐ Yes ☐ No

Child 2 ☐ Yes ☐ No

Child 3 ☐ Yes ☐ No

Child 4 ☐ Yes ☐ No

Child 5 ☐ Yes ☐ No

67g) Have you been able to obtain health care for your children when needed? ☐ Yes ☐ No

67h) Have you been able to provide three meals a day for your child(ren)? ☐ Yes ☐ No

67i) Are you the only parent in your household? ☐ Yes ☐ No

The 2007 County of Riverside Homeless Survey

Percentages of Respondents

The percentages of respondents are less than 100 percent for various questions because not every person answered every question that was asked on the survey. Appendix C provides a list of the percentages of respondents by questions answered within the survey's 17 categories of questions.

A. Location

- In What County Were You Born? (n=630)
- In What State Were You Born? (n=576)
- In What City Were You Born? (n=560)
- Do You Have Family Who Live In Riverside County? (n=626)
- Do You Have Friends Who Live In Riverside County? (n=625)
- Have You Ever Worked In Riverside County? (n=625)
- Are You Currently Working In Riverside County? (n=627)
- Have You Ever Attended School In Riverside County? (n=625)
- Are You A Resident of Riverside County? (n=627)

B. Length of Time Homeless

- How Long Have You Been Currently Homeless? (n=609)

C. Income

- Do You Have a Part-Time Job? (n=607)
- Do You Have a Full-Time Job? (n=605)
- Do You Receive Any Of The Following Kinds Of Monthly Incomes? (n=630)
- If You Do Not Currently Receive Any Of These Monthly Incomes, Did You Receive Any Of These Monthly Incomes In The Past? (n=385)
- What is your total current monthly income? (n=515)

D. Marital Status

- What Is Your Marital Status? (n=621)

E. Veteran Status

- Are You A Veteran? (627)
- What Is Your Period of Service? (n=90)
- Do You Have A Veteran's Administration ID Card? (n=90)
- Have You Used Any Veteran Services In The Past? (n=90)

F. Domestic Violence and Assault

- Have You Ever Been Abused/Mistreated By A Spouse Or Intimate Partner? (n=621)
- Have You Ever Been Abused/Mistreated By A Parent Or Relative? (n=619)
- Have You Ever Been Abused/Mistreated By Someone Other Than A Spouse, Intimate Partner, Parent, Or Relative? (n=619)
- Have You Ever Been A Victim Of Assault While Living On The Street? (n=630)
- Was the Assault Physical Or Sexual? (n=173)

G. Health Status

- Do You Have A Physical Or Developmental Disability That Impairs Any Activities Such As Walking, Eating, Breathing, Reading, Etc.? (n=617)
- Do You Use Any Equipment Because Of Your Disability? (n=117)
- Have Any Of The Following Health Problems Impacted Your Daily Functioning For Three (3) Months Or More? (n=630)
- Have You Been Able To Obtain Services For The Health Care Needs You Noted Above When Needed? (n=541)
- Do You Currently Need Health Care Services For Any Of The Conditions You Listed Above? (n=250)
- Have You Had A Dental Exam During The Past Year? (n=623)
- Have You Been Able To Obtain Dental Care When You Needed It? (n=610)
- Do You Need Dental Care At This Time? (n=616)
- Have You Had A Vision Exam During The Past Year? (n=620)
- Have You Been Able To Obtain Vision Care When You Needed It? (n=605)
- Do You Need Vision Care At This Time? (n=619)
- Have You Had A Prescription You Could Not Fill? (n=623)

H. Foster Care

- Are You Currently In The Foster Care System? (n=586)
- Have You Ever Been In The Foster Care System? (n=463)
- When Were You Released From The Foster Care System? (n=43)
- Were You Homeless During The Time You Were In Foster Care? (n=43)
- How Long After Being Discharged From Foster Care Did You Become Homeless? (n=35)

I. HIV/AIDS

- Have You Ever Been Tested For HIV/AIDS? (n=617)
- Do You Know Your Results? (n=617)
- Would You Like To Be Tested? (n=229)
- Are You HIV+? (n=562)

J. Pregnancy

- Are You Pregnant? (n=24)

K. Drug History

- Do You Now Use, Or Have You Ever Used, Any Of The Following Drugs? (n=630)
- Do You Have A Substance Abuse Problem? (n=608)

L. Tobacco

- Do You Smoke? (n=618)
- How many Cigarettes Do You Smoke Per Day—less than one pack; one pack; or two or more packs? (n=369)
- How Interested Are You In Quitting Smoking—not interested; somewhat interested; or very interested? (n=347)
- Do You Chew Tobacco? (n=605)
- How Much Do You Chew Per Day—less than one container; one container; or two or more containers? (n=18)
- How Interested Are You In Quitting—not interested; somewhat interested; or very interested?? (n=18)

M. Education

- What Is The Highest Grade Of School That You Completed? (n=619)
- Have You Ever Completed a Vocational Training Course? (n=599)
- Have You Ever Attended A Business School? (n=601)

N. Mental Health

- Have You Ever Been Diagnosed With A Mental Or Emotional Problem? (n=614)
- If Yes, Have You Experienced Any Symptoms Of This Diagnosis Within The Past Year? (n=184)
- Have You Ever Been Prescribed Medications For Mental Or Emotional Problems? (n=609)
- If Yes, Are You Currently Taking Any Psychotropic (Psychiatric) Medications? (n=184)
- Have You Been Hospitalized For Psychiatric Problems During The Past Year? (n=607)
- If No, Have You Ever Been Hospitalized For Psychiatric Reasons? (n=537)
- Have You Ever Seen A Counselor For Help While Dealing With Your Emotions Or Stress? (n=617)
- Have Friends Or Family Ever Expressed Concern About Your Mental Health? (n=612)
- Does The Interviewee Act/Converse In A Mentally Unstable Manner (answered by the Interviewer)? (n=629)

O. Food

- How many Meals Do You Provide (Prepare) For Yourself Each Day? (n=600)
- Do You Have Difficulty Accessing Food? (n=617)
- How Many Meals Do You Usually Eat Each Day? (n=605)
- Have You Had To Skip Meals In The Past Month Because There Was Not Enough Money To Buy Food? (n=620)

P. Religion

- Do You Consider Yourself A Religious Person? (n=621)
- Are You A Member Of A Religious Faith? (n=620)
- Do You Regularly Attend A Religious Service? (n=622)

- Were You Raised As A Child In A Religious Home? (n=621)
- Has Your Faith Increased Or Decreased During Your Homeless Experience? (n=600)

Q. Children

- Do You Have Any Children Living With You? (n=583)
- How Many? (n=110)
- Is Your Child Enrolled In School? (n=110)
- Have You Been Able To Obtain Health Care For Your Children? (n=110)
- Have You Been Able To Provide Three Meals A Day For Your Children? (n=110)
- Are You The Only Parent In Your Household? (n=108)